

at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during February and March, 1992; and

(b) the number of persons arrested so far in this connection and action taken against them?

<i>Period</i>	<i>Quantity (in Kgs)</i>	<i>Value (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
February, 1992	6.5	26.2
March, 1992	40.9	163.8

(b) Nine persons in February '92 and five persons in March '92 were arrested in this connection and are liable for penalty in departmental adjudication and prosecution in Court of law.

#### **Sale of Shares of Public Sector Companies to Foreign Investors**

6984. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to sell shares of some public sector companies to foreign investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effect thereof on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). A committee under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission has been set up to examine alternative modalities for the sale of shares of Public Sector Enterprises and various related matters. Government proposes to decide on the modalities of the sale after considering the recommendations of this committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The quantity and value of gold seized at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during February and March, 1992 are given below:

#### **Public Liability Policies by Insurance Companies**

6985. SHR GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Insurance companies propose to issue public liability policies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The Insurance Companies have been issuing public liability policies for the last many years and recently, they have also introduced the public liability policies in terms of the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991. While the traditional public liability insurance policy provides protection against tort liability arising under common law, the recently introduced policy under Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 provides coverage on 'no fault' basis as per provisions of the Act.

#### **Export Orders for Brass Handicrafts**

6986. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether export order worth crores of rupees for brass handicrafts are in jeopardy;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). It is evident from the export figures given below that the value of exports of metalware (including brassware) has gone up considerably:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value in Rs. crores (Provisional)</i>
1989-90	Rs. 124.73
190-91	Rs. 235.78
1991-92	Rs. 324.54

(April - Feb. 92)

Hence it is difficult to foresee that export orders for brass handicrafts worth crores of rupees may be in jeopardy.

While an increase in the import duty on copper and zinc may marginally affect the cost of production of brass handicrafts, it may be mentioned that such increase of excise/custom duty is generally compensated under the duty draw-back scheme. The exporters of metalware are at present entitled to receive duty draw-backed @ 24% of FOB value subject to a maximum of Rs. 37 per kg. w.e.f. 24.10.91.

#### **Widening of N.H. No. 5**

6987. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the widening work on the Cuttack and Bhubaneswar section of National Highway No. 5 has been delayed considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to expedite the widening work and

(d) the year by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Four-laning of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar Section of N.H. No. 5 in Orissa is included in the proposed Second World Bank National Highway loan. Negotiations for the loan have been completed, but the World Bank is yet to sign the loan. However, meantime preliminary actions as regards prequalification of contractors, finalisation of tender documents etc. are under way in consultation with the Bank.

(d) Since bidding process for the project has not yet started, it is too early to say when the work of four-laning will be completed.

#### **Export of Marine Food**

6988. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope for increasing marine food export;

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the yield of marine food for export;

(c) the technology proposed to be adopted and upgraded in Eighth Five Year Plan for growth in the exports; and